

Claim 1 includes a carrier for holding dice while the dice are being tested. The carrier includes a digital storage device. Results of testing the dice while the dice are in the carrier are stored in the storage device on the carrier. Beffa expressly states that its fuse identifiers (which store nothing more than the identity of the semiconductor device (i.e., a "fuse ID" code)) consist of fuses on the semiconductor device—not on a carrier. (See Beffa, column 3, lines 4-8; and column 5, lines 8-19.) Moreover, nothing in Beffa teaches or suggests that the fuse ID code read from the fuse identifier on the semiconductor device or testing data for that semiconductor device are stored on or at the carrier that holds the semiconductor device during testing. (See Beffa, e.g., column 5, lines 8-33.) Indeed, there is no reason to think that the fuse ID code and test data are stored anywhere other than the computer that performs the tests on the semiconductor device, as is common in the industry. Therefore, Wood, O'Connor, and Beffa, whether taken singly or in combination, fail to teach or suggest storing results of testing dice in a storage device that is located on the carrier used to hold the dice during the testing.

It should be noted that storing results of test data in a storage device on the carrier is advantageous. For example, the test data stays with the carrier and is therefore readily accessible wherever the carrier is moved during manufacture, testing, and associated processing.

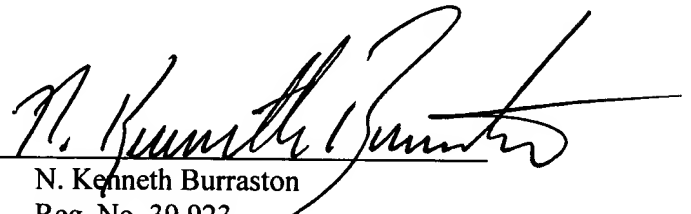
In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicants' attorney would be helpful, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (925) 456-3915.

Although Applicants believe that all necessary extensions of time and fees have been provided for, Applicants petition the Director for any extension of time deemed necessary for acceptance of this submission, and Applicants authorize the Director to charge any fee deemed necessary for acceptance of this submission to Deposit Account No. 50-0285 (order no. P90-US).

Respectfully submitted,

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By:


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